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that the circuit board and light-emitting unit are encased within the moldable lens material in the substantial absence of air in juxtaposition with one another.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 9-11, 14, 15, 24 and 27 and rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)B as being anticipated by Roney (5,632,551). Claims 3-7, 12, 13, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 3(a) as being unpatentable for Roney. Claims 8 and 17 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is appreciated. The claims, as amended, are believed to be distinguished structurally from the art of record and to be unobvious from that art. Applicant's invention is a one piece molded assembly that is relatively unbreakable and which completely defines and encapsulates or completely surrounds the LEDs in the circuit board. The claims are believed now to more specifically define the structural relationship.

Roney, relied upon by the examiner in the contents of the original claims, does not show similar structure or give a similar result. First, Roney is a substantially more complex design. Second, Roney provides an air pocket or space between the circuit board structure and the lens. The lens material appears to be breakable and relies on the use of an aluminum housing to protect the lens. Roney does not employ the relatively unbreakable feature of the present invention, and does not show or describe how the Roney invention can be modified to suggest or show the present invention. For example, Figure 4 of Roney describes a method of manufacturing. The first step shown is to

provide a housing. In the Applicant's invention, the flowable lens and material at least partially defines the housing and the unit may be directly mounted to an application for use. While Roney uses a formable medium, it does so with a different structure and purpose. Thus, "The medium is operable to bond the carrier, the light transmissive window and the inner surface of the housing such that the space between the carrier and light transmissive window is hermetic." (Col. 1, lines 44-47).

Referring to Figure 4, Roney requires mounting a lens cover to the housing. All of those elements are shown in Figures 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the Roney disclosure. Applicant's flowable material provides both the housing and the lens, such that the material contains the circuit board, and thereby provides a relatively unbreakable lamp assembly without the need for applying to adhesive or any other structure for mounting the lens assembly.

The claims are now believed to distinguish structurally from the Roney reference and are now to be unobvious from Roney or any of the other art of record, whether the art is considered singly or in any other combination. If the Examiner has any questions concerning claim form or content, Applicant's undersigned attorney would be happy to discuss the matter at 314-872-8118.

In view of the differences between the art and Applicant's invention, reexamination of the case, allowance of the claims, and passage of the case to issue are respectfully requested.

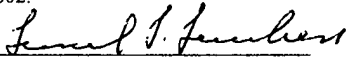
Respectfully Submitted,

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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AMENDMENT WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CORRECTIONS

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A lamp assembly comprising:
 - a support circuit board;
 - a plurality of light emitting diodes mounted to said circuit board;
 - an electrical connection attached to said circuit board and extending outwardly of said lamp assembly;
 - a mold in place lens material encapsulating the circuit board and light emitting diodes to define a solid body, (and) formed to provide a predetermined shape for said lens assembly and to provide a housing for the lamp assembly, said electrical connection extending outwardly of said lens assembly.
9. (Amended) A lamp assembly having a predetermined shape, comprising:
 - a circuit board;
 - a least one light emitting unit connected to said circuit board;
 - an electrical connection attached to said light emitting unit; and

a moldable lens material completely encapsulating the circuit board and light emitting unit so as to be juxtaposed therewith, said lens material defining at least a portion of the predetermined shape of said lamp assembly.

25. (Amended) A lamp assembly comprising;

a moldable, translucent material, the material being formed to define a body for the lamp assembly;

a plurality of light emitting diodes attached to a circuit board wherein the circuit board has been molded and completely covered by (within) the material such that the material is the body of the lamp assembly; and

electrical leads attached to circuit board that extends through the material to allow electrical connection to the circuit board.

26. (Amended) A lamp assembly comprising;

a circuit board;

a light emitting unit connected to the circuit board; and

a moldable lens material, the material being formed to define a body for the lamp assembly;

wherein the circuit board has been submerged within the moldable lens material before hardening and the moldable lens material allowed to harden, such that the circuit board and light emitting unit are encased within the moldable lens material in the substantial absence of air in juxtaposition with one another.